

## Blog for Immerse Day 16

Dreams and their meanings. It's the story of Joseph. Joseph had personally had dreams that his brothers correctly interpreted, which led to them selling him into slavery. But God gave Joseph management experience in Potipher's house, blessing all his work. Being unjustly sent to prison was awful, but there Joseph encountered dreams that needed interpreting. And God granted him those meanings. Two years passed before Joseph was called to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. (Waiting is hard for humans, but God's plans don't unfold immediately. I wonder how Joseph kept hope alive?) When the cup-bearer finally remembered him and Joseph was introduced to Pharaoh as the one who can interpret dreams, Joseph said, "It is beyond my power to do this, but God can tell you what it means and set you at ease." Joseph gave credit to God. A God whom the Egyptians did not know or care about. Joseph, rescued from prison and standing in the opulence of the palace clean and dressed, did not fail to tell the truth. Couldn't saying this have gotten Joseph thrown back into prison? "What do you mean you can't do it? And who is this god?" I'm sure the cup-bearer was nervous too! "Don't tell Pharaoh you can't do it! What will he think of me?"

Joseph delivered God's interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams, including a plan of action. Remarkably, Pharaoh then appointed Joseph, a Hebrew prisoner, to the high position that he had just described. Don't you wonder how Pharaoh's other officials felt? Maybe kind of like Joseph's brothers! We live in a "me-first" culture that worships people who are "self-made" and clever. On the surface, our culture would love Joseph. We might wish our lives were as "successful" in overcoming adversity. But I wonder how ready we are to give credit where credit is due. I wonder how ready we are to give glory to God. And what would be the result if we did?

Yes, Pharaoh promoted Joseph, but far more remarkably, Pharaoh gave glory to God! A God that he did not know. He said of Joseph, "Can we find anyone else like this man, so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" What if our actions, in giving credit to God, inspired other "unlikely" people to recognize the hand of God at work in our lives and in the world?